

For Immediate Release
Contact Rich Adams
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Malta, MT----The Bureau of Land Management's Malta Field Office will temporarily open a new firewood cutting area near Zortman beginning December 14, 2005. This area is located on public land between the Camp Creek Campground and the houses at the lower end of Camp Creek.

Opening this temporary wood cutting area will give the public an opportunity to utilize the wood material from the Wildland Urban Interface project (a hazardous fuels reduction effort) and trees that were up-rooted during a severe storm last April.

BLM plans to keep this firewood cutting area open until August 31, 2006. Next September, the road will be closed and rehabilitated and the remaining wood material burned when weather conditions allow.

"We need to dispose of this wood material to reduce the fuels load near Zortman and providing a new firewood cutting opportunity seems a good way to provide a product to the public and to help BLM with our forest health goals," said Rich Adams, BLM's assistant field manager in Malta.

If you plan to cut firewood in this area you will need to purchase a \$20 permit that allows the holder to cut four cords of firewood. These permits can be obtained at the Malta BLM Office or at the Buckhorn Store in Zortman. You will also need to stay on the existing road as a means of reducing impacts. If the area is muddy, please postpone getting wood until the area dries. And most importantly, be a good neighbor; stay on the public lands and don't trespass on the adjacent private lands.

If you have any questions, please contact Bruce Reid, a BLM forester in Lewistown, at 538-1960 or Rich Adams, at 654-5131.

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